

Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club

The OSCILLATOR

DECEMBER 2009

Issue 2009:12
Our 31st Year

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone. An amateur radio license is not required.

FIELD DAY RESULTS ANNOUNCED

Two-thousand-six-hundred-forty-two entries were filed with the American Radio Relay League reporting the activity of thirty-seven-thousand-five-hundred-ninety-two participants on June 27-28 for the 2009 Field Day. Both the number of entries and participants set new records. W7OTV led the nation in Class 4A participants with 144 and registered third in the nation among all entries.

Across America, 149 entries were filed in Class 4A, including that of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, 5 others in Oregon Section and 12 others in Northwestern Division. W7OTV reported 144 participants and 1,383 QSOs, to lead both Oregon Section and Northwestern Division in QSOs. OTVARC placed 22nd among 4A entries nationally, with a score of 5,526. The leading 4A entry was filed by K4BFT for the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club in Alabama, with a score of 14,404 and 4,708 QSOs.

Ohio Section led the nation with 126 entries in all Classes, Oregon Section had 52, while Virgin Islands Section fielded one. You'll find a listing of 4A Northwestern Division entries on Page 3 of this issue. A report is included in the December issue of QST beginning on Page 67.

FIRST WORK DAY SUCCESSFUL

The new OTVARC Trailer is to be the Portable Communications Center for the Club. It will be used for emergency communications, demonstrations, Sea-Pac, and Field Day. JD Fort K7JDF has undertaken the updating and renovation needed to convert the travel trailer to its new use. The former communications vehicle was given to Army MARS. JD is working with Tom Nelson K7TDN to make the transfer.

On Saturday, October 31, 2009 work began to renovate the new vehicle. JD led a team, including Alvin Carlson KB7VHI, Kristin Webb and others. Initial work removed the old bathroom area, old floor, and water heater. Additional work days are being planned. If you want to participate in the alterations and upgrades, contact JD at K7JDF@arrl.net.

Be Sure To Cast Your Ballot
See Page 7

CLUB MEETING

Wednesday
December 9th

Our club meeting will be held at The Meriwether Golf Club Restaurant on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be limited to the announcement of Election Results.

This is our Holiday Dinner event. **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS** are required by December 2nd. See **HOLIDAY DINNER** on Page 2.

Check out our web site:
www.otvarc.org.

ELECTION UNDERWAY

It's Election Time for Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club. All current members are eligible to cast a ballot. This year, we have a competitive election for TRUSTEE. We have a single candidate for each of the OFFICER positions. Vote for each officer and cast three votes for your choices for TRUSTEE. Casting your Ballot indicates your interest in the leadership and direction of our Club.

This year, you may choose one of THREE ways to return your Ballot, email, postal mail, or in person. Please return it as soon as possible. You'll find a Ballot on Page 7 of this issue.

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Joel Simmons AD7IS, Chairman
Jennifer Roberson K7JLR
Everett Curry W6ABM

HOLIDAY PARTY - DECEMBER 9TH

The Annual Holiday Dinner will be held on December 9th at Meriwether Golf Club Restaurant, 5200 SW Road Bridge Road, in Hillsboro.

The Dinner, for Members and their guests, will be \$10.00 per person paid at the door. This price includes the meal and a ticket in the drawing for the "big prize." Checks may be made out to OTVARC.

The No-Host Cocktail Hour at 6:00 pm will be followed by a Turkey Dinner at 7:00 pm. An optional "White Elephant Exchange" will be included. Please, no Gag/Joke Gifts. Exchange gifts valued at \$10.00. A brief meeting will be held to report election results.

Reservations for the Holiday Dinner are required. Please make yours by December 2nd. You may reserve your place(s) by email at otvarc@gmail.com or at the club postal address, 880 NE 25th Ave, Ste 2-160, Hillsboro, OR 97124.

Mel Sutton KB7PVW is serving as Coordinator this year. Questions, Mel KB7PVW, 503.246.8879.

2009 CQ WW Contest

For the third year running members of the Tualatin Valley Contesters (W7TVC), our ARRL affiliated, auxiliary contest club participated in the CQ Magazine sponsored CQ WW SSB Contest from a hilltop between Dallas and Fall City Oregon. This quiet peaceful location is the soon to be retirement home of Mike Fuller (K7CIE) and wife Emily.

Improvements to the station, quiet solar conditions, a sunspot number in the 30's and a record number of participating stations (domestic and DX) made this year one to remember. The 48-hour contest began at 5:00 PM on Friday October 23rd and ended at 5:00 PM Sunday, October 25, 2009. A total of eight operators participated on the air with four staying the whole weekend.

This year the station "conditions" included two G5RV antennas (north-south and east-west), a tower mounted directional "Spider Beam" multi-band antenna at 40-feet and a 160-meter dipole. Transceiver used was an Icom-756 pro3 and matching 1-kw PW-1 linear amplifier. Logging software from N3FJP completed our set-up. Operation was "Multi-op, single transmitter, high power".

At the stroke of 5:00 PM, Mike Fuller (K7CIE) and Ron O'Connor (KD7VIK) were busy listening on 15-meters. At one minute into the contest the first contact, LP1H (Cordoba, Argentina) was made, followed several minutes later by JA3YBK (Kobe, Japan). At the 20-minute mark contact number five, HC8A (Galapagos Island) was in the log too. Altogether the first hour total was 39 contacts, a dozen on 15-meters with the rest on the 20-meter band.

Being a Friday night the rest of the group arrived when they could during the evening hours. Salad and Pizza provided by our host was on hand. Once fed we put them to work! As usual the best propagation moved to the 40 and 80-meter bands as the night progressed, then briefly to 160-meters, then back to 40-meters. As expected the late night rate was pretty slow, but a number of new country/zone multipliers were worked overnight.

Dawn Saturday showed some life coming back to the 20-meter band, but for an hour or so we could hear many stations but they couldn't hear us. With a little more daylight (and a lot of patience) we soon were back in business, working into Europe at a decent rate. The same pattern was seen on Sunday morning.

Saturday was also "Swaptoberfest", the annual Hamfest just down the road in Rickreal Oregon. Mike (K7CIE), Ron (KD7VIK), Dave Haupt (W8NF) and Dave's friend Rob Locher (W7GH) made a quick trip to see what treasures we could find while the rest of the crew, including Everett Curry (W6ABM), Karl Anderson (NM7N), Dan Thompson (KD7NHJ) and Carl Clawson (WS7L) stayed very busy finding new multipliers and countries to work.

What Is ARES?

An Emergency Rescue Across the State

Have you heard of the Washington County ARES? ARES is a group of amateur radio emergency services volunteers. They provide backup emergency communications for more than 20 agencies, including your Sheriff's Office. While their work largely involves silent success, one of our members recently helped save lives by relaying radio transmissions from across the state.

In Mid-September at about 5:30 p.m., Ernie Johnson, a Washington County Sheriff's Office volunteer, received a call on the Oregon ARES Net from a member whose boat had lost power on the Powder River in Baker County – that's on the Oregon-Idaho border. There were seven people on the boat ranging in age from 7 to 85.

Ernie contacted the Baker County Sheriff's Office and relayed communications from the adrift boater to Baker County about their location and conditions. By the time Baker County Sheriff's Office personnel were able to reach the boaters, they had drifted into the Snake River. The wind was so strong that at times they drifted against the current.

About 7:15 p.m., Ernie received a very weak signal from the boater saying he could see a boat approaching. Shortly after that, he received another signal with a shout that the Sheriff was there.

Thank you Ernie, this is more great work by an outstanding volunteer!

[From The Washington County Sheriff's Office]

Ernie Johnson K7EAJ is a long-time member of OTVARC, WashCo ARES, and the VE Team.

Contest, from Page 4

Of course, contests are not just about radios and propagation, there is real human contact. Part of getting a good score involves understanding how the operators at the other stations are choosing their techniques and strategies. In a team effort such as the W7TVC weekend, operators on the same team must collaborate well.

FIELD DAY DATA

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION 4A ENTRIES

Entry	Section	Score
OTVARC W7OTV	OR	5,526
Top Key N7OS	WWA	4,812
All ARC W7PU	WWA	3,866
Chehalis Vly W7W	WWA	3,006
Island Co K7A	WWA	2,656
Lk Oswg ARES WA7LO	OR	1,782
Sky Vly ARC W7SKY	WWA	1,532
Electric City ARC W7ECR	WWA	1,450
Radio Amat/Gorge W7RAG	OR	1,442
Grande Ronde RAA W7GRA	OR	1,382
Rad Opr An/Dallas W7ORE	OR	1,382
Lincoln Co. ARC N7OY	OR	1,290
Ryan Pigg N7QY	OR	690

TOP 10 ENTRIES NATIONALLY - PARTICIPANTS

Entry	Call	Section	Num
No. Fulton AR League	W4QO	GA	259
Williamson Co. ARES	N4FR	TN	150
OTVARC	W7OTV	OR	144
Yavapai ARC	W7YRC	AZ	135
Anne Arundel RC	W3VPR	MDC	132
Davis Co. ARC	K7DAV	UT	130
Epara Park	N3IS	EPA	125
Birmingham ARC	N4CUE	AL	124
ARC of El Cajon	WA6BGS	SDG	120
Vienna Wireless	K4XY	VA	120
USECA ARC	K8UO	MI	117

Dave (W8NF) and Rob (W7GH) have known each other for years, this was their first operating event together. On the 3am to 6am shift the QSO rate was low, but it was a perfect opportunity for them to see each other in action, learn particular operating techniques, and develop a "team technique." The only real disappointment was that they had to turn over the rig and microphone to the next pair of operators just as 20 meters was waking up.

Carl (WS7L) most enjoyed calling "CQ" Saturday night which generated a huge pile-up lasting over an hour with more than 80 Asian stations worked. It was great to be the "DX" for a change!

Ron O'Connor KD7VIK

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



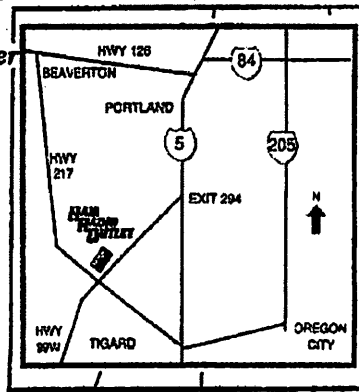
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CQ WW, from Page 2

At the half way mark (5:00 PM Saturday) 243 contacts had been made and we knew we were well ahead of our 2008 results. With the 20 meter band wide open to Japan, much of the evening was spent calling "CQ Contest" and "running" Japanese stations which really had a dramatic effect on our final score.

Dave, Rob and Dan had to leave Saturday evening, (you missed a lot of fun guys!) so the rest of the crew forged ahead taking turns through the second night. The late evening and overnight shifts were pretty much a repeat of Friday night.

A hearty, but not necessarily low calorie breakfast, (I saw some fruit!) prepared everyone for the long day ahead. Countries worked and zone multiplier totals continued to exceed our most optimist estimates. Two more sessions on the 15-meter band gave forty-five more contacts, while 20-meters as usual provided most of the action.

With the contest end in site, everyone was getting tired but excited and motivated to "work just a few more". We continued to work station all over the globe, including Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Costa Rica and Mexico right up to the end. With three minute to go our final contact,

Club Jackets, Hats and Patches

Class Act Uniforms will process whatever orders we have for OTVARC Club Jackets. Even though you let me know already, contact me again to confirm that you would like a jacket, and your size. Prices are as follows:

S M L XL \$30.50
2XL \$32.00
3XL \$ 33.50
4XL \$35.00
5XL \$36.50

Add name and callsign embroidered on the jacket for an additional charge of \$7.00 per jacket. Provide your name, call, size of jacket, and a check payable to Class Act Uniforms. Send it to Jenny Roberson (k7jlr@gmail.com), or see her at the next meeting. We don't have a closing date for this order for jackets, but don't want wait too long. Club Hats are still available at club meetings. They are \$12.00 each.

We can have 3-inch Club Patches as well. The minimum order is 50, so let me know your interest. Also, one patch or two? They will be \$3.75 each.

If you are interested in any of the above, contact Jenny Roberson, K7JLR at 503-848-2283, or email her at k7jlr@gmail.com.

Pat Roberson, N7PAT

ZY7C (Fortaleza, Brazil) became our 549th and final contact. So how did we do this year?

- Total contacts: 549
- QSO points: 1,449
- Multipliers: 243
- Countries (all bands) 171
- Total score: 350,107

With more than double our 2008 score and over 90 different countries worked, it was a memorable time and we can't wait to do it again. Finally, for our host Mike (K7CIE) the biggest highlight of the weekend was how well the station performed, especially his new "Spider-Beam" antenna. Thanks Mike for all your hard work in putting an awesome station together!

See CONTEST - Page 3

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**6 March 2010****Electronics Show and Fleamarket****Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club**www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm

Talk-In: 146.82/22 (PL 103.5)

Michael Dinkelman N7WA**22222 148th Avenue SE****Kent, WA 98042****253-631-3756****n7wa@arrl.net****10 - 11 APRIL 2010****CommAcademy 2010****West. Washington Med Services Team**www.commacademy.org**Marina Zuetell N7LSL****PO Box 15624****Seattle, WA 98115****206-524-6567****n7lsl@arrl.net****4 - 6 JUNE 2010****SEA-PAC****NW Division ARRL Convention****Seaside Convention Center, Seaside Oregon**www.seapac.org**C. Wayne Schuler AI9Q****16414 NE 21st Street****Vancouver, WA 98684****360-892-5580****ai9q@arrl.net**

Your business advertising in THE OSCILLATOR is seen each month by more than 200 members who read THE OSCILLATOR. To include your "Business Card" ad (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact Maureen O'Rourke at 503.591.9641.



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Have we missed your birthday?
Likely we do not have
your correct date in our database.
Send updates and corrections to
otvarc@gmail.com

Happy December Birthday

2	Bert Schmidt	W7JWG	17	Peter Hardiman	N7DUC
2	Phil Westover	WA7URV	17	Steven Aamodt	K7SJA
3	Joan Schouweiler	N7LMK	17	Bill Conwell	K2PO
3	Gavin Silaski	K7AWS	19	Stan Griffiths	W7NI
4	Howard Merritt	KD7ZLF	19	Pete Thunem	WA7JBG
6	Pat Griffiths	KA7UFG	26	Kathleen Haupt	KE7EVV
6	Phil Kane	K2ASP	27	Rox Heath	AD7RX
9	Kurt Roth	W9ERT	27	Floyd Ragner	N7ONQ
9	Roland West	K7MCK	28	Ken Nordling	W7EZE
13	Richard Ballard	W7AND	31	Richard Bixler	WA7DKF

IS HILLSBORO YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Hillsboro Fire and Rescue is participating in a program to compete for a \$10,000 grant from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. To be in the running, we ask that you log onto their web site and take their Fire Safety Pledge Quiz. At the conclusion of the quiz, the site will ask that you enter your email and the automation will send you a confirmation email to ensure your email is valid. I recognize they are gathering emails for marketing purposes. However, if you later decide you don't want any of their marketing materials, you can simply unsubscribe after receiving their first one.

Chief Seidel has approved our participation. I urge you to take the quiz and enter HFD as your fire department. Then, please forward this to other folks who would be willing to do the same to list HFD as their Fire Department. This program runs from now to December 21st.

Thanks for your consideration. We're hoping for a good response.

Regards,
Storm Smith
Public Information / Education Officer
Hillsboro Fire Department
503-681-6273 Office
503-201-4397 Cell
storms@ci.hillsboro.or.us

Go to:
www.befiresmart.com/WardKlicke

You will be asked for your name, city and e-mail address and to enter a password, so your entry can be verified by return e-mail. At the final step, please select Hillsboro Fire Department as the agency you are supporting. The whole process should take less than 5 minutes.

Thanks,
Sharon AC7UK

Our thanks are extended to Hillsboro Fire Department for the use of their facilities for education and testing.

WHAT ABOUT GRID SQUARES?

The Maidenhead Locator System is a geographic coordinate system used by amateur radio operators. Dr. John Morris G4ANB, originally devised the system, and a group of VHF managers, meeting in Maidenhead, England in 1980, adopted it. The Maidenhead Locator System supplants the older QRA locator system with one that is usable outside of Europe.

Maidenhead locators are commonly referred to as grid locators or grid squares, despite having a non-square shape on any non-equirectangular cartographic projection.

The globe is divided into 18 zones of latitude of 10° each (South Pole to North Pole), and 18 zones of longitude of 20° each (moving east from the Antimeridian of Greenwich). The Antimeridian passes from Wrangle Island in the north through Fiji in the south in the Pacific. It is 180 degrees west of the Prime Meridian at Greenwich. Each square may be sub-divided into subsquares. These are identified by another pair of letters usually presented in lowercase. These subsquares are 2.5° of latitude by 5° of longitude. W1AW, the American Radio Relay League's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station in Newington, Connecticut, is found in grid locator FN31pr. The OTVARC Field Day site at L.L. "Stub" Stewart State Park will be located in CN85jr.

See the map on Page 7 to visualize these grid assignments. Note that Zone AA is at the Southwest corner of the map.

On HF Bands, positions are reported at square precision. On VHF and UHF, subsquare precision is used. More precise position reports are very rarely used.

Find your Grid Square. Go to this web site:
www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php
Put in your call sign (or address) and the site will return your 6-place Grid Square.

MAJOR "FIELDS" OF QTH LOCATOR SYSTEM

Each of these fields is divided into 100 squares, which are then further divided into 576 sub-squares which are 5 minutes of longitude from East to West and 2.5 minutes of latitude from North to South

180°	90°	AR	BR	CR	DR	ER	FR	GR	HR	IR	JR	KR	LR	MR	NR	OR	PR	QR	RR	90°	180°
		AQ	BQ	CQ	DQ	EQ	FQ	GQ	HQ	IQ	JQ	KQ	LQ	MQ	NQ	OQ	PQ	QQ	RQ		
		AP	BP	CP	DP	EP	FP	GP	HP	IP	JP	KP	LP	MP	NP	OP	PP	QP	RP		
		AO	BO	CO	DO	EO	FO	GO	HO	IO	JO	KO	LO	MO	NO	OQ	PO	QO	RO		
		AN	BN	CN	DN	EN	FN	GN	HN	IN	JN	KN	LN	MN	NN	ON	PN	QN	RN		
		AM	BM	CM	DM	EM	FM	GM	HM	IM	JM	KM	LM	MM	NM	OM	PM	QM	RM		
		AL	BL	CL	DL	EL	FL	GL	HL	IL	JL	KL	LL	ML	NL	OL	PL	QL	RL		
		AK	BK	CK	DK	EK	FK	GK	HK	IK	JK	KK	LK	MK	NK	OK	PK	QK	RK		
0°		AJ	BJ	CJ	DJ	EJ	FJ	GJ	HJ	IJ	JJ	KJ	LJ	MJ	NJ	OJ	PJ	QJ	RJ	0°	
		AI	BI	CI	DI	EI	FI	GI	HI	II	JI	KI	LI	MI	NI	OI	PI	QI	RI		
		AH	BH	CH	DH	EH	FH	GH	HH	IH	JH	KH	LH	MH	NH	OH	PH	QH	RH		
		AG	BG	CG	DG	EG	FG	GG	HG	IG	JG	KG	LG	MG	NG	OG	PG	QG	RG		
		AF	BF	CF	DF	EF	FF	GF	HF	IF	JF	KF	LF	MF	NF	OF	PF	QF	RF		
		AE	BE	CE	DE	EE	FE	GE	HE	IE	JE	KE	LE	ME	NE	OE	PE	QE	RE		
		AD	BD	CD	DD	ED	FD	GD	HD	ID	JD	KD	LD	MD	ND	OD	PD	QD	RD		
		AC	BC	CC	DC	EC	FC	GC	HC	IC	JC	KC	LC	MC	NC	OC	PC	QC	RC		
		AB	BB	CB	DB	EB	FB	GB	HB	IB	JB	KB	LB	MB	NB	OB	PB	QB	RB		
90°	180°	AA	BA	CA	DA	EA	FA	GA	HA	IA	JA	KA	LA	MA	NA	OA	PA	QA	RA	90°	180°

Candidates For 2010 Officers (Vote For ONE for each Office)

President: Pat Roberson N7PAT ☐

Vice President: Don Baldwin AA2V ☐

Secretary: Jennifer Roberson K7JLR ☐

Treasurer: Alvin Carlson KB7VHI ☐

Trustee - Class of 2012 (Vote For THREE)

Ron O'Connor KD7VIK ☐

Phil Kane K2ASP ☐

JD Fort K7JDF ☐

Karl Anderson NM7N ☐

Robert Crocker WN7O ☐

Herb Hirst W7HLH ☐

Mel Sutton KB7PVW ☐

If you wish to write-in a vote, enter name and office here:

Return Ballot prior to Wednesday, December 9th

Mark BALLOT on the outside of your envelope if you mail to the Club postal box.

Name or Call must be on outside of envelope.

You may email your BALLOT choices. Your email message must include your Name or Call.

Mail to: OTVARC BALLOT
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Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

-- OR --

Email to: otvarc@gmail.com

-- OR --

Deliver in Person by 6:00 PM
at the December 9th Holiday Meeting

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION
SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER
Seaside Oregon
June 4 - 6, 2010

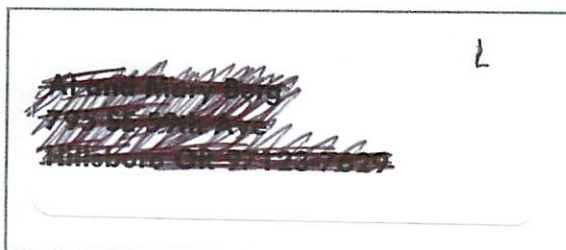


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CLUB MEETING
DECEMBER 9TH